

## Message Text

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11

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /128 W

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R 272105Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3816

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 3676

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, ES

SUBJ: PDC CONDEMNS CHILEAN COUP

1. EL SALVADORS PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION PARTY, THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, ISSUED A STATEMENT ON SEPT 25 ON THE FALL OF THE ALLENDE REGIME. THE PDC "ENERGETICALLY CONDEMNS" THE ACTION OF THE CHILEAN ARMED FORCES "ARCINST A DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED GOVT" CONTENDING THAT THIS IS "ANOTHER LINK IN THE CHAIN OF GOVTS BY FORCE IN LATAM WHICH, ON THE PRETEXT OF ECONOMIC GROWTH, SUPPRESS HUMAN LIBERTIES." THE PDC CONTENDS THAT ALLENDE WAS EMBARKED ON "AUDICIOUS ECONOMIC REFORMS" BUT ADMITS THAT HIS GOVT WAS NOT FREE OF HUMAN ERROR AND MAY HAVE MISJUDGED CERTAIN REALITIES OF THE CHILEAN SCEVE. THE PDC DOES NOT SUGGEST ANY FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT IN THE FALL OF THE ALLENDE GOVT.

2. PRIVATELY, PDC LEADERS ARE FAR LESS CRITICAL OF THE MILITARY'S MOVE. PARTY LEAGAL ADVISER FIDEL CHAVES HAPPENDED TO BE IN CARACAS ATTENDING AN INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE HOSTED BY THE VENEZUELAN CD LEADERSHIP THE WEEK OF THE COUP TOOK PLACE AND SPOKE WITH FORMER SALVADORAN PDC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE NAPOLEON DUARTE WHO RETURNED FROM SANTIAGO TWO DAYS BEFORE THE COUP.

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DESCRIBING THE CHAOTIC SITUATION IN CHILE AND THE

PERSECUTION SUFFERED BY THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AT THE HANDS OF THE ALLENDE REGIME, DUARTE WAS TAKING BETS AT THE CONFERENCE THAT A COKP WOULD TAKE PLACE WITHIN A WEEK (HIS ASSESSMENT WAS REPORTEDLY BASED ALSO ON INFORMATION HE HAD RECEIVED FROM EX-PRES FREI.) ACCORDING TO CHAVEZ, THE PARTICIPANTS AT THE CARACAS CONFERENCE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE US WAS INVOLVED IN THE COUP.

3. THE PDC STATEMENT REFLECTS ITS BASIC CONCERN ABOUT THE EVENTS IN CHILE; A FEW CROCODILE TEARS MAY BE SHED OVER THE COLLAPSE OF THE ALLENDE GOVT BUT WHAT UPSETS

IT MOST IS THE FACT THAT THE MILITARY ONCE AGAIN HAS USURVED CIVILIAN POWER, A VERY REAL PROBLEM THAT THE PDCNMIGHT HAVE TO FACE SHOULD IT EVER COME TO POWER IN EL SALVADOR. AS TO THE FUTURE OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT IN CHILE, ONE PDC LEADER TOLD US THAT HE WOULD PREFER THE MILITARY STAY IN POWER FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS AND STRAIGHTEN OUT THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CHAOS RATHER THAN TURN THE PROBLEM OVER TO THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS BY PERMITTING EARLY ELECTION.

4. ON SEPTEMBER 26, CHILEAN CHARGE CARLOS GREZ HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT WHICH HE DESCRIBED THE GOALS OF THE NEW GOVT. CONTENDING THAT THE GUARANTEE OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS WAS A PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE OF THE MILITARY GOVT, HE HELD THAT THIS INCLUDED THE RIGHT OF FREE ELECTIONS AND THAT CHILE WOULD RETURN TO "AN AUTHENTIC SYSTEM OF DEMOCRATIC, REPUBLICAN AND REPRESENTATIVE GOVT" IN THE FUTURE.  
MOSKOWITZ

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